March 3
1927

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come all men must perish. For if there be no Christ there be no God; and if there be no God we are not, for there could have been no creation. But there is a God, and he is Christ, and he cometh in the fulness of his own time." BOOK OF MORMON, 2 NEPHI 11: 6, 7.

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RADIO SYSTEMS OF THE ETERNAL WORLDS*

ELDER BRIGHAM F. GRANT

FRIENDS: I realize that in order to say anything that would benefit you it will be necessary that I enjoy the Spirit of the Lord, that He will inspire my words and will give me thoughts and ability to express them.

A great many men in my travels have asked me this question: "Why are you a 'Mormon'?" When that question is put to me, I am sometimes led to wonder and ask myself: "Do you realize why you are a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?" When I reflect upon it and realize that my father, Jedediah M. Grant, was Second Counselor to President Young, that he gave his life for the Church and kingdom of God as he understood it and as it was understood and preached by the Latter-day Saints; and also when I remember that he died and I was then only a few weeks old, and later in life was thrown out into the world without any religious training; that I reached the age of thirty-nine years before I was baptized and became a member of the "Mormon" Church; and when I realize that I did not join the Church because of any influence exercised over me by my parents, as may have been the case with some people—when I remember all these conditions of my early life, it is then, as I have said, I wonder why I became a Latter-day Saint.

*Address delivered from Radio Station K S L, Salt Lake City, Utah, U. S. A., January 16, 1927.

THE PRIVILEGE OF ALL

I was without religious training, and moreover I was of a practical turn of mind. I was more directly interested in things of this world than in the principles of life and salvation. That which appealed to me in regard to the doctrines of the Church of Christ, as taught by the Latter-day Saints, was this: They taught me that Jesus Christ was and is the Saviour of the world, that He is the Son of God; that God our Father is a personal Being; that we can reach Him by prayer; that we can communicate with Him; that we can talk to Him as we can talk to our earthly fathers; that in calling upon His holy name we do so with the knowledge that He hears and answers prayers, that He is in very deed our Father; that Jesus Christ is His Only Begotten Son in the flesh; that He is the Redeemer of the world; that by and through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ men and women everywhere are accepted of God as His sons and daughters. It is the privilege of every one to know for himself that God really lives, that Jesus is the Christ.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE IS LIFE?

I remember very well the first time that I made an effort to communicate with God. I was in the State of Oregon, in a very thickly timbered country. I was in the mining business and employed a large number of men. I had occasion to go up through the forest for some two miles. While returning to camp I became very despondent on account of being away from my family and also because of financial reverses we had met with in our mining venture. While in that frame of mind the thought came to me: "For what purpose are human beings born into the world, anyhow? Is it to live and go through all these trials and troubles and temptations, and then to lie down and die and go back to mother earth? Is that all there is in life?" Then the further thought passed through my mind: "No, there must be something more than this. The most intelligent creature on earth is man, and is he simply to die and go back into the earth like a tree or a plant? Is that all there is to life?" With these came the reflection: "No, no; there surely must be something beyond such a fate." Brooding over these thoughts while returning to camp, I came across an old pine tree that had blown down on the side of the road. I sat down upon it, and I continued to pursue my reflections regarding the purpose of life, as to why we are here and as to where we are going when we pass away. With these thoughts in mind, I remembered having heard people say that under like circumstances they had prayed, and had received an answer to their prayers.

AN APPEAL FOR LIGHT

I became more despondent, and then the thought occurred to

me: "Well, here you are alone." I looked up and down the road to see that no one was approaching. Being satisfied that no one was near, I said to myself: "Now, I will kneel down and offer up a prayer unto God." I was thirty-nine years old, and this was my first prayer. It was a simple, matter of fact prayer. It was a prayer from the heart. I said: "I do not know that there is such a Being as God. I do not know that I have a Father in heaven. But I do know this, if thou dost live, if thou art my Father, thou canst hear my prayer. If thou wilt hear my prayer, wilt witness unto me in some way that I have a Father in heaven and that my prayer is heard and answered, from this day on I will be a better man. I will live a better life; I will be a better father; I will be a better citizen; and I will be a better husband."

I said: "O Lord, I am exactly in the same condition as was the Prophet Joseph Smith when he prayed unto thee. I do not know which way to go. I do not know what I ought to do in order to serve thee, but like him I feel to say that if thou wilt teach me, if thou wilt strengthen me, I will endeavour to do the right thing."

When I arose from the ground there was no great manifestation given me, but I felt a peaceful influence in my soul that satisfied its desire, which caused me to feel that God had heard and answered my prayer.

TWO REAL POWERS

After walking a little way, I began to realize for the first time in my life that there are two real live powers on the earth, not imaginary, but tangible powers, powers that can persuade and control and direct and influence the human mind. I had gone but a short distance when I felt the presence of an influence near as if it were a human being walking by my side on the road. I got the impression that it was a brother of Jesus Christ, a son of God, one who rebelled at the council in heaven, and who was cast down upon the earth with one-third of the hosts of heaven—Lucifer, who would seek to thwart the work of Jesus Christ, his elder brother, and to destroy the souls of men by darkening their minds that they should not comprehend the things of God relating to His children on earth. While walking thus it seemed as if some invisible being was walking by my side speaking to me as one would do by wireless telephone.

A GREAT RADIO SYSTEM

The world is a keyboard of a great wireless telephone, or radio system, I believe, and every human being is connected up with it. Within the past few days the human voice has been carried, and is being carried daily, across the Atlantic Ocean. This has been accomplished by the ingennity of man, but nevertheless it is a science that originated with God. The power to transmit speech without wires has always been known to Him. Jesus

Christ and His missionaries, Satan and his emissaries, also understand this principle.

It was over one of these wireless telephones that certain thoughts were communicated to me as I walked along the road. I did not see anybody, and I did not hear anybody, but quite as perceptibly as you now hear my voice, certain thoughts passed through my mind coming over that wireless telephone; and the adversary said to me: "You are a nice fellow, aren't you, that you should engage in prayer? Think of it, a man such as you are and such as you have been offering up a prayer! How would you like your friends to know that you have been praying?"

Well, by this time, I was very glad that nobody had caught me praying, and I there resolved that I would never do it again. On going to my room that night, after the labours of the day, I never was so anxious to do anything in my life as to kneel down and offer a prayer to God. Do you think I could do it? No, it seemed to be utterly beyond my power. The evil one, though invisible, was near. Apparently he was speaking to me over the wireless telephone, and was saying: "There is nothing in it, there is no necessity for prayer."

I concluded that the best thing for me was to pray no more, and so I retired without praying. Still I wanted to pray and would have done so if I could, but that influence was too strong to resist. I had trained with the adversary for thirty-nine years; I had listened to his telephone messages, and I understood them, but I did not altogether recognize the source from which they came.

A FRESH RESOLUTION

It was during that night, however, that I became convinced there was something in life worth living for. I resolved in my heart that I would be a better man. There were many things I was doing that I now resolved I would not do any more. I was determined that with the help of God I would change my mode of living by resisting temptations. I commenced and overcame little faults that I considered were not all right. I wrote a letter next day to my wife, who was in Salt Lake City, and said to her: "Mamma, when Sunday comes, take the children to some Sunday School. Take them and go to some meeting. Don't let them run around on the streets on Sunday. I am sure it would be better for them and better for you." My wife read the letter to the family, and when she got through, my eldest boy, who was then sixteen years old, said: "Well, mamma, what in the world is the matter with papa? He never wrote a letter like that before." She replied: "I don't know, my son. Something terrible I'm sure has happened to him, or he would never write like that."

Nevertheless I went on writing like that; I went on thinking like that. I wrote to my brother, Heber, and told him that I had

offered up a prayer and that I was going to try to make a change in my life. In answer he wrote me a very long letter expressing great satisfaction in what I had written. He sent me some literature relative to the "Mormon" Church—the Church to which my father was devoted and for which he gave his life. Strange to say, the devotion and sacrifice of my father had never aroused sufficient curiosity in my mind to cause me to read and study the doctrines of his Church.

NEW REALIZATIONS

I commenced to read, to study, to go to meetings, to gather information wherever I could obtain it. I want to say to you that it was an honest investigation. As I pursued my inquiry I found that the teachings of the Latter-day Saints harmonized with the teachings of Christ. I found that the organization of the "Mormon" Church corresponds exactly with that of the Church established by the Saviour. In it were to be found apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and so on. I learned that there is a preexistent state in the spirit world, in which all mankind lived before they came down to the earth. I learned that this life is understood to be a school of experience, a probation, wherein men are tested, tried and proved to see if they shall be worthy of salvation and glory hereafter. I learned that God gave me my free agency to choose good or evil, to do right or wrong.

I learned that every human being in the world is entitled to exercise his free agency. I felt that this was a great and grand principle. In the exercise of free agency, it was my privilege to join any church I might select. If I chose, I could be a man of honour and integrity. I could be sober and industrious, honest and virtuous, or I could be the converse. I thanked God from my heart for the principle of free agency.

FRUITS OF EARNEST SEARCH

I felt that the people of this world are the children of God and that He is reaching out after them. I realized that He was reaching out for me. I knew that He had touched my heart, that He had made known to me that I am a son of God, and that He is really and truly the Father of my spirit. By a close study of the New Testament, I found that the Latter-day Saints were teaching the same doctrines as were promulgated by Christ and His apostles. My interest in the teachings of the "Mormon" Church was greatly aroused. I began to analyze these teachings from the standpoint of a business man, without bias. I asked myself the question: "Why should I join this Church rather than some other church?" Looking a little further and closer into the doctrines of the "Mormon" Church, I found that men had to be called of God by revelation before they could legally officiate

in the ordinances of the Gospel. Or, in other words, I discovered that I could not rightfully and lawfully be baptized and confirmed a member of said Church without divine authority in him who officiated. That appealed to me. I thought of the comparison that might be made in worldly things, as for instance in municipal affairs, where men are elected to office. They receive their authority from the city before they can legally act. If proper authority were ignored a man would be regarded as a usurper, an impostor, and his acts would be repudiated. So it is with respect to divine authority.

CONVERSION TO THE TRUTH

I was impressed with the manner in which the Lord dealt with the Prophet Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith, the boy, went to the Lord in prayer. The Lord answered him. God the Father and Jesus the Son descended from heaven and revealed themselves to him. The Father pointing to the Son said: "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" The Son spoke to Joseph and taught him the things of God. He called him to be a prophet, and gave him authority to establish His Church again upon earth. It was shown that there had been an apostasy from the truth, hence the necessity for a restoration of the true Church.

This incident greatly impressed me. I saw how the Gospel had been revealed and restored again. I saw how through the years that followed, it stood the test and could not be overthrown by the scientific men of the world, nor by the great theologians of the earth. None of them, singly or collectively, could point out any one doctrine of the new faith that was unscriptural; neither could they show any defect in the organization of the Church founded by the young prophet. When I became cognizant that the critics of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints resorted to fault-finding and slander, picking flaws in the little things, and wholly overlooking the big things of the Gospel, the great and glorious principles of eternal life, I was converted to the truth of "Mormonism." I felt that this is indeed the work of God. On the 4th of February, 1896, I was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

WITHOUT EXCUSE

I have a testimony to bear that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of Almighty God. It is not a simple belief with me, it is an absolute knowledge. The Lord burned the principles of righteousness into my heart and left me without excuse. I fully realize and appreciate the workings of those two wireless invisible telephones: Jesus Christ the Saviour at the head of one and Satan at the head of the other. I realize now that God leaves every one of His earthly

children without excuse. The world is a keyboard to a wireless telephone, and all humanity is connected with it. Through this invisible wireless instrument, the Lord communicates with His children, so that they may make no mistake.

Looking back over my life, I remembered my wrongdoing. I could not go before the Lord and say I did not know it was wrong, that I did it ignorantly. No, I did not do it ignorantly. I did it knowingly and wilfully and was left without excuse. I exercised my free agency. Every moment I was tempted to do wrong a message came from Jesus Christ over the wireless telephone: "Don't do it, don't do it; it is wrong, you know it is wrong." That inner voice pleaded with me like a mother pleads with her boy when she says to him: "Do not do that thing, it is wrong." Thereupon, the adversary picks up the telephone, so to speak, and says: "Go ahead and do it. It is but a little thing. It is all right, go ahead."

THE GREATEST BATTLE

It is just at this point that the Lord intends that man shall exercise his free agency. Father, mother, brother, sister, in fact no human being, can do for him what he can do for himself in the hour of temptation. He must decide the matter and then as he acts so will he live, and so will be his record. That is where the battle of life comes in. It is the greatest battle ever fought or that ever will be fought in this mortal world.

I want to say that if this were my last hour on earth I would bear testimony that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world, and that I know, as I know I live, that any son or daughter of God on earth can get a testimony of the truth by earnest, sincere prayer. My prayer is that all of the Lord's children in the world may be brought to realize and comprehend the principle of free agency, and may be led to petition the throne of God in all sincerity to know if He lives, to know if His Church is upon earth, to know what they should do to please Him and how to do it. I would like to say to all men, as one who has made the trial, that if you seek Him you will find Him. It is possible for you to come to a knowledge of the truth, so that no man can deceive you and cause you to believe that you do not know it.

May God add His blessing to those who are in doubt that they may ask and receive, I humbly pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

GRANT ME to be beautiful in the inner man, and all I have of outer things to be at peace with those within. May I count the wise man only rich. And may my store of gold be such as none but the good can bear.—PLATO.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1927

EDITORIAL

KEEP IN LINE

FORWARD, MARCH! Such is the ringing command for a military advance. Every man is to keep in step with his fellows, and the alignment of the column must be strictly maintained. Were each soldier left to set his own gait, without regard to the pace of the unit of which he is a fraction, disorder would prevail and the company would become a crowd or a mob. Organization implies cooperation and compliance with regulations.

In Church administration orders and commands find no place; they are substituted by advice, counsel and authoritative suggestion; nevertheless, among faithful members and earnest workers these gentler means of direction should be and generally are as effective as is the imperative command of an officer to a disciplined troop.

In the interest of efficiency—which means effectiveness, accomplishment, achievement, success—lessons are prescribed for classes, programs are arranged for our varied assemblies, and outlines are provided in the several courses of study. Such helps are supplied to all our auxiliary organizations. It goes without saying that these outlines and lessons are to be followed by the several organizations for which they have been prepared.

Sunday School classes are not left to choose their own text-books nor to start independent courses. The General Board having charge of Sunday School affairs provides plans and prescribes text-books for each year, both for the stakes and wards at home and for the missions abroad. Details are set forth in the *Juvenile Instructor*, which is the official organ of the Latter-day Saint Sunday Schools; and for the British Mission the order to be followed is published from time to time through the *Millennial Star*.

To assist in the work of the Mutual Improvement Associations in this field the *M. I. A. Bulletin* is issued monthly, and all the associations are to be guided thereby. To further the cause of the Relief Society articles are published at regular intervals in the *Star*.

Let it not be forgotten that local branches, schools, associations, societies, relatively small though each of these may be as to numbers, are parts of a great organization, which is operating according to plan and purpose carefully considered and skilfully

designed. Every class session should be devoted to the lesson or other exercise assigned for that particular hour. If through any cause a class should have fallen a little behind the schedule, especial effort should be made to catch up as soon as possible. There is little reason or justification for any class going ahead of the outlined plan, as every opportunity for review of recent work should be utilized. Occasionally we hear of a class that has run ahead of the schedule because, perhaps, a prescribed lesson was considered to be too short—based upon two or three pages of the text only; while the subject-matter presented on these two or three pages, if thoroughly studied, would require the full class period and much time for preparation beside. In using text-books we should remember that we are studying subjects rather than pages.

Notwithstanding the fact that for the auxiliaries lessons are planned and prescribed, ample opportunity is afforded for initiative and originality in treatment; but there must be uniformity as to subjects and general mode of treatment if the blessings of cooperation and harmony are to continue.

Conference Presidents are expected to keep in close touch with the officers of branches, and of the auxiliaries within the branches, and to maintain the desired uniformity in all the prescribed activities.

Let us keep in line, and in step, marching to the music of progress, advancing in order and unison, forward, ever onward, to the hills of enlightenment and to the greater heights of knowledge, the attainment of which shall make us wise, even unto salvation.—J. E. T.

A CHARACTER STUDY OF THE DEVIL

Character study should constitute part of every man's learning. As the word character is here used it connotes the sum of qualities by which a person may be distinguished from others, natural habits or disposition—in short, that which the person really is.

Character may be essentially good or evil with numerous gradations; there are diverse methods of determining and ascertaining which. Righteous character can be made to appear unholy through libel or aspersion; evil character ofttimes guises in the concealing cloak of a good reputation or masquerades in the deceptive makeup of sly pretense. Hence we must learn to differentiate. Nice distinction and careful judgment is necessary sometimes to enable mortals to discriminate between good and evil, so subtle are the diabolical machinations of perdition; more than worldly wisdom is necessary on occasions to qualify men to distinguish between right and wrong.

Satan has character, which though vile is persuasive, enticing, magnetic. So furtive are his ways, so wily his plans, so artful his manœuvrings, that unless we know something about him personally and his awful history, we may be ensnared in his widespread net. It does not follow, however, that to know the devil is to yield to his will and wishes. His character can be studied without associating or compromising with him.

Character is inseparably connected with personage; in the sense here spoken of, one cannot conceive of character existing in and of itself. The devil is a personage—a living spirit-being of unembodied status; and his dupes, both the unembodied and those in the flesh, for he has converts walking the earth, are no less separate entities and personal beings than he himself. This tenet is fundamental in the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

There is a popular dogma of current belief to the effect that Satan is but a fictitious conception, a mere phantasy of the imaginative mind. Perusal of such press items as the one from which the following excerpt was taken will confirm this statement:

> In their origin the ideas associated with the devil and hell have nothing to do with Christianity. . . . Satan is just a figment of the imagination, and is an attempt to personify the forces of evil. He has no existence outside a man's mind.—Rev. S. P. Whitehouse, in *Belfast Telegraph*, January 24th, 1927.

If "Satan is just a figment of the imagination", what then of the solemn affirmation of Christ, wherein He said: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10: 18)? What of the Master's summary of Belial's character to certain unregenerate Jews, who were indulging in sinful practices:

> Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
>
> And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.—John 8: 44, 45.

Was the Lord herein elucidating the baseness of a mere "figment", if such be possible? Can better authority than that of Christ be cited whereby we may learn something of the character of the fallen son of the morning?

Again, what of the Revelation to John on Patmos; is that record imaginary too? Therein John corroborates the Saviour's description of Lucifer and his descent from glory:

> And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
>
> And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
>
> And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: and he was cast out into

the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.—Revelation 12: 7-9; see also Isa. 14: 12-15; Doctrine and Covenants 29: 36-38; 76: 25-27.

It is absurd to maintain that "in their origin, the ideas associated with the devil and hell have nothing to do with Christianity," and at the same time extol Christ as the embodiment of integrity and His disciples as truthful men. One of the burdens of the gospel message is to teach and warn mortals of the reality and power of the adversary.

Nephi, a man of God whose ministry on the Western World preceded the advent of Christ by nearly six centuries, looked down the vista of ages and saw far distant a day when Satan would "rage in the hearts of the children of men", when he would "pacify and lull them away into carnal security", cheat their souls, and lead them "carefully down to hell." The evil one uses many tactics, but none more sinister or crafty than foretold in this wise:

> And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.—Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 28: 22; see complete chapter.

Do you think that the day Nephi foresaw and predicted has yet arrived?—James K. Knudson.

IN THE CANADIAN MISSION

Elder Charles H. Hart has been appointed to succeed Elder Joseph Quinney, Jr. in the office of President of the Canadian Mission.

The personnel of our missionary forces is in a state of change so frequent as to be practically continuous. There is no established tenure or duration of service; men are appointed and duties assigned as the developing needs of the great cause require. The spirit of missionary labour is potently manifest throughout the Church, as well in the highly organized stakes and wards of Zion as in the missions of foreign countries.

President Joseph Quinney, Jr. has directed the affairs of the Canadian Mission, comprising practically the area of the great Dominion from the Atlantic to Winnipeg, for about four years. He has had the satisfaction of witnessing a steady and uninterrupted growth of the Church within his field, and is now released with honour. To his successor he bequeaths a rich heritage of successful and increasing activity.

President Charles H. Hart is known by name throughout the Church, as for many years he has been a member of the First Council of the Seventy, and is therefore numbered among the

General Authorities of the Church. His departure for a foreign field will inevitably leave a sense of loss at home, for he has been one of the most active members of his Council in the never-ending service of visitation and ministry among the stakes.

With this appointment four of the First Council of the Seventy, otherwise known as the First Seven Presidents of Seventies, are engaged as Presidents of missions, the others being Pres. Brigham H. Roberts in the Eastern States Mission, Pres. Joseph W. McMurrin in the California Mission, and Pres. Rey L. Pratt in the Mexican Mission. Missionary service is specifically a function pertaining to the office of a Seventy.

SENATOR REED SMOOT

IT TAKES MANY YEARS for men to fight their way to the top in their place or profession in life. The battle is fierce and men need must have nerve and sinew of superior quality to succeed. Twenty-three years ago Reed Smoot was elected a United States Senator from the State of Utah. For four consecutive terms of six years each, now augmented by the beginning of a fifth period of office, he has served his State and Nation efficiently, effectively and tirelessly.

To-day he is on top. . . . He has become somebody. A word from him gets more press attention than an hour of the best eloquence found in the two chambers on the hill. He is chairman of the Finance Committee, ranking member and virtually chairman of the Committee of Appropriations, the watch dog of the Treasury, a militant proponent of economy in government, and one of the chief financial advisers to the President. Eloquence in the Senate is becoming a lost art, a sort of vestigial hangover from the Daniel Webster days. Government is more and more a matter of patient grinding in committee rooms—and here Smoot excels. In these committee rooms laws are made, mutilated or killed; appointments are made, deals are made, and men are made. In them there is no playing to the galleries, no beating of tom-toms. Work is the chief thing—and Smoot is the most untiring worker in all Washington.—*The American Mercury* for October, 1926.

The Tariff Review of January, published in New York, gives first place to a comprehensive article on the tariff question from the pen of Senator Smoot, together with a full page portrait of the author, under which appears the foregoing quotation.

Senator Smoot is one of the Council of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is typical of the quality of men produced by "Mormonism."

ALL THE WORLD SHALL HEAR

WHAT THE MEN of yesteryears designated miracles are to-day commonplace. We are no longer completely baffled by earthly

distances that once seemed illimitable or by the fleeting element of time. The rapid advancement of radio communication, the bursting dawn of television, aerial passage from continent to continent over sea and land—these and a multitude of other modern miracles overtax our capacity of wonderment.

Transatlantic telephony was inaugurated as a practical enterprise beginning on January 7th, when London rang up New York. 'Tis true that £5 a minute is the minimum charge for such calls and three minutes the shortest time period allowed, but think of the boundless possibilities of the future!

These long distance messages were picked up as far away as South Africa. Since the wireless telephone business started, several extensions have been made; it is interesting to know that our own beloved Utah, in common with all other States in the Union, may now be reached by the human voice from these lands at the cost of sixteen Guineas minimum. Inventors and scientists are penetrating the bounds of space and are making all the world akin.

Under the caption "A Memorable Broadcast" the *Liverpool Post and Mercury* of February 23rd carried the following editorial; consider its portent:

Last evening, for the first time in history, the President of the United States addressed from Washington millions of people in this country. The B. B. C. deserves credit for the dramatic interlude which it so successfully introduced into its programme. Nobody could be sure, before the event, that the great experiment of transmitting the President's voice from the House of Representatives across the Atlantic to Rugby and London, and thence throughout the country, was practicable; but happily it was achieved, and for fifteen minutes Mr. Coolidge was heard in multitudes of English homes, just as simultaneously he was being heard in American homes, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and far out among the islands of the Pacific. Never has a human being addressed such an immense audience. It was profoundly moving to try to realise the wonder which was happening. Frankly, it could not be realised with any adequacy; only in retrospect does a little of its greatness appear. The President's theme was, of course, George Washington, and he treated it in the traditional manner. Though at moments, in the vast rhythm of the ether, his words became inaudible, or indistinct, the line of his ideas could easily be followed. Perhaps the most vivid touch of any in this memorable broadcast, the first, it is to be hoped, of many similar ones from both sides of the Atlantic, was the playing of the American band when the President had concluded his oration, together with the thunder of applause from the Congressmen. Henceforth, Mr. Coolidge should be something more than a name among the English people, to whom he seemed yesterday to be brought so near.

It is well that the voice of President Calvin Coolidge of the United States of America be heard afar, as indeed the voices of

other presidents, kings and potentates. May the day soon come when the voices of leaders in the kingdom of God will be universally heard and heeded.

A MASTER THIEF

Elder Waldo L. Osmond

One of the most serious menaces to the safety and security of society is the thief. His business is to rob, and little does it concern him how great the loss to his victim. And yet, thieves have their favourite methods of attack. Some of the most daring culprits choose to carry on their sinful enterprise openly; they revel in the accomplishment of tasks involving danger and risk, and they execute their cleverly devised schemes in broad daylight. Another type of filcher, more wily and cautious, sets his snares at more opportune times, perhaps under cover of evening shadows or night's mantle of darkness. Still another class prefer the zest of open combat, and even go so far as to provoke and arouse opposition that they may display their prowess by demonstration in actual conflict. Perhaps the most dangerously sagacious of all, however, is the confidence man who wins the trust of his intended victim by affecting friendliness, the while arresting with crafty reasoning any suspicion of treachery.

Occasionally a culprit who is notorious for his long and colourful career of misdeeds evades detection by disguising himself with an attractive cloak, garbed in which he gives the appearance of being an honourable gentleman and desirable as a companion. Thus protected he roams about free from molestation. Such a thief is Procrastination, a crafty filcher who with subtle cunning effects far-reaching work of destruction among men. Rarely is his pillaging discovered until after the havoc is wrought—his cloak hides him well. He is detected and put to rout only by those who are ever on watchful guard against him, for his secrecy is proverbial.

The cloak under which the thief masquerades so successfully is that of good intentions. One may express surprise at the statement that even a well intended plan of action often serves as a disguise for Procrastination; worthy intentions may but permit the thief to operate more effectively. Though a fixed resolution is often the forerunner of good deeds, it is also true that a commendable plan, instead of stimulating effort and initiative, may foster a degrading state of self-satisfaction and inactivity if not carried into effect. High ambitions, dreams of lofty achievement, and desire to render service, are all of no worth except they be supported by resolute action.

The message of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

to the world is one that embraces warning against wilful disobedience to divine laws and ordinances either through direct refusal to comply with the requirements of the Gospel, or by disobedience through constant procrastination. The awful fate awaiting him who knows the right yet heeds it not is made plain through the solemn words of the Prophet Alma:

For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed. . . .

For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.—Book of Mormon, Alma 34: 33, 35.

In the world to-day there are thieves of gold and silver, filchers of precious gems, and despoilers of reputations, but the master thief, Procrastination, casts a covetous eye on one jewel alone—the golden moment; for well he knows that once secured unto himself it can never be returned to the robbed victim. The words of the ancient seer, uttered with kindly exhortation yet prophetic finality, sound significant warning to all who subject themselves to the invasions of the marauder, Procrastination.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Branch Conferences—Of the Barnsley Branch, Sheffield District, on Februay 13th. Branch officers gave reports and a program was rendered by children of the Sunday School. The speakers of the day included President Raymond H. Haight and Elders George H. Bailey and Clinton L. Mills.

Of the Grimsby Branch, Hull District, on February 13th. The Fourth Article of Faith was the subject treated by the Sunday School scholars and the theme of discourses delivered by President Richard D. Hooper and Elder Alma A. Timpson.

Of the York Branch, Hull District, on February 20th. Remarks relating to the theme "Divine Revelation" were made by President Richard D. Hooper and Elders R. LeRoy Blamires, Veronns M. Jensen and Gardham Stainton.

Of the Ipswich Branch, Norwich District, on Februnry 20th. Gospel discourses were delivered by President Clemuel J. Neville and Elder Horald G. Clark.

Transfer—Elder Ralph V. Chisholm has been transferred from the London District to the Liverpool Office.

Doings in the Conferences: *Birmingham*—The Traveling Elders assembled at Birmingham on February 5th, rendered reports, and received instructions. On February 3rd a farewell testimonial was held in the Handsworth Chapel for Elders Cleston H. Rigby, Frederick R. Flinders and Boyd W. Madsen, who have been transferred to other districts.

Liverpool—Eight persons complied with the ordinance of baptism administered by Elders Seth W. Pixton and Z. Vernon Derrick at Liverpool on February 22nd; those officiating in the confirmations were President James E. Talmage, President David M. Kennedy and Elders Z. Vernon Derrick, Seth W. Pixton, James K. Knudson, Ralph V. Chisholm and Waldo L. Osmond.

Manchester—Elder Archie L. Baird, who has been transferred to the Liverpool District, was tendered a farewell party on February 21st. Elder E. Eric Snow administered baptism to two applicants on February 19th; they were confirmed by Elders Cleston H. Rigby and N. Glenn Stanford. The Oldham Concert Party entertained an audience of approximately one hundred people on February 12th at Oldham.

Nottingham—Officers and teachers of the District assembled at Nottingham on February 12th; President Marvin P. Thain gave counsel and instruction pertaining to the work of the auxiliary organizations. The meeting room at Mansfield was the scene of an enjoyable social entertainment on February 19th.

Welsh—A conjoint baptismal service of the Welsh and Bristol Districts was held at Malpas near Newport, Wales, on February 10th. Five persons were baptized, two from the Welsh District by Elder Harold J. Butcher and three from Bristol by President Carl E. Brown. The confirmations were administered by President Carl E. Brown, President Thomas Biggs and Elders Ezra M. Parry, Henry S. Seamons and Albert Brain.

CONTENTS

Radio Systems of the Eternal Worlds 129
Editorials: Keep in Line ... 136
A Character Study of the Devil 137
In the Canadian Mission ... 139
Senator Reed Smoot... ... 140
All the World Shall Hear... 140
A Master Thief 142
From the Mission Field 143

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN